UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/48/L.20
17 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 91 (b)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990S

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.8

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 15 to 17 and 21 to 23 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.8, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a mid-term global review conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in the early part of September 1995 or any suitable date in the second half of 1995;

(b) Stress the importance of timely, adequate and thorough preparations for the mid-term global review conference, and accordingly request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the capacity of Secretary-General of the mid-term global review conference, to undertake the necessary preparatory activities, including designating an executive secretary for the conference;

(c) Request the Trade and Development Board to consider, at its spring session in 1994, the elaboration of the preparatory activities for the mid-term global review conference, including intergovernmental, expert, sectoral and inter-agency preparatory meetings and the substantive documentation;

(d) Reiterate its request to the Secretary-General, in resolution 46/156, to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to ensure the participation of at least one representative of each least developed country in the spring sessions of the

Trade and Development Board, as well as in the preparatory intergovernmental meetings for the mid-term global review conference;

(e) Decide to consider at its forty-ninth session preparations for the mid-term global review conference, as well as the question of meeting the cost of full and effective participation of representatives of the least developed countries in that conference;

(f) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan and proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

2. The activities referred to in the draft resolution are related to major programme IV (International economic cooperation for development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 1/ They are also related to section 11A (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would undertake the necessary preparations for the convening in Geneva, in 1995, of a mid-term global review conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

4. The Secretary-General would also mobilize extrabudgetary resources to ensure the participation of at least one representative of each least developed country in the spring sessions of the Trade and Development Board, as well as in the preparatory intergovernmental meetings for the mid-term global review conference.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the related full-cost servicing of a mid-term global review conference, with a duration of 10 working days in 1995, is estimated at $526,000. Details of these conference-servicing estimates are as follows:

Conference-servicing costs	$
Pre-session documentation (30 pages, 2 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	34 700
Meeting servicing (Interpretation, 40 meetings: A,C,E,F,R,S)	249 400
In-session documentation (200 pages, 20 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	185 900
Post-session documentation (50 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	56 000
Total	526 000

6. With regard to the conference-servicing requirements of $526,000, these cost estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing costs would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1994-1995. However, the level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings has been estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings known at the time of the budget preparations, but also meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1994-1995 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution.

7. As indicated in paragraph 11A.119 of section 11A (UNCTAD) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 2/ a major thrust in the orientation of the subprogramme on the least developed countries will be the substantive and organizational preparations for the mid-term global review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. Resource requirements for related substantive activities have accordingly been included under this subprogramme in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Summary

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.8, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 11A).